

Proposed Elimination of the State Mining and Geology Board

The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2012-13 contains provisions to "streamline" state government operations by eliminating many boards and commissions, including the State Mining and Geology Board. (SMGB). The SMGB's authority and function would be transferred to the Director of the Department of Conservation. This transfer would shut the door on public access to the board and its operations, and it would eliminate a check-and-balance of authority between the board and the Director. Without the SMGB, the Department of Conservation would lose a valuable source of independent technical expertise and experience-based policy advice.

Budget hearings will begin again in May after the "May revise" of the Governor's budget is published. Interested parties may contact the leaders listed below to express their opinions on the continuation of the SMGB. Senator Simitian chairs the Senate Budget Committee, Senators Lowenthal and Fuller are members of his committee. Copies of letters to the Budget committee may be sent to Resources Secretary John Laird and the Director of the Dept. of Conservation, Dr. Mark Nechodom. Assembly committee hearings will also likely be held. Committee assignment for the Assembly will be available later.

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